

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Hiroyuki Kado, et al.

Serial No.:

Filed:

For: PLASMA DISPLAY PANEL
MANUFACTURING METHOD FOR
ACHIEVING LUMINESCENCE
CHARACTERISTICS

Examiner:

Group Art Unit:

August 21, 2001

Irvine, California 92614

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PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the MPEP Section 708.02(viii), applicant hereby petitions to have the above-identified application made special and a petition fee is submitted herewith.

It is believed that the present claims, as set forth in an attached Preliminary Amendment are directed to a single invention and Applicant is agreeable, if the claims are not directed to a single invention, to make an election without traverse as a prerequisite to the granting of special status.

Attached is an International Search Report and the references cited therein.

Referring to the Japanese Laid Open Application No. 03/025826 and the European Application No. 0779643A, these references disclose a plasma display panel and a manufacturing method. The Japanese Laid Open Application discloses a technique for preventing the inside of a

panel from being polluted by impurities, such as dust, oil, or similar debris that can be generated by the ion bombardment that occurs during an aging process. The reference also teaches preventing illumination imperfections by circulating a gas during the aging process to stop impurities from diffusing inside the panel. The '826 reference, however, does not suggest the prevention of any heat related deterioration of phosphors during the aging process caused by the presence of steam, nor does it teach a dry gas having a partial steam pressure of no more than 15 Torr being introduced to and evacuated from the inner space of the panel. Likewise, the European application 643 A does not disclose these features.

U.S. Patent No. 3,743,879 was also cited for disclosing a heating process to be performed during an aging process, but again it does not provide the particular conditions set forth in our present claims to prevent deterioration in the characteristics of the phosphor during the aging process. The temperature range disclosed in the '879 patent does not extend as high as 300°C or more, but rather provides a temperature of about 200°C which is believed insufficient to restore the characteristics of the phosphors in accordance with the teachings of our present claims.

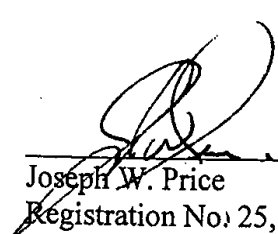
The Japanese Laid Open Patent 377233 also discloses a heating process performed during an aging process of a display panel, but again the temperature range is relatively low and is not believed to be able to restore the characteristics of the phosphors in the same manner that the present invention accomplishes within the present claims. References can be made to our Figures 19 and 20 to determine the impact of the heating temperatures in the aging process.

It is believed that our present petition, along with the submission of the Preliminary Amendment and the International Search Report and references should more than adequately meet the requirements for the granting of special examination.

If there are any questions with regard to this matter, the undersigned attorney would appreciate a telephone conference.

Respectfully submitted,

PRICE AND GESS



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